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(57) Abstract			

The present invention relates to a novel human patched-like gene (PTCH2), which for the first time has been cloned and sequenced. Several alternatively spliced mRNA forms of PTCH2 have been identified, including transcripts lacking segments thought to be involved in sonic hedgehog (SHH) binding and mRNAs with differentially defined 3' terminal exons. Further, the invention also relates to the protein encoded by the present PTCH2 as well as to functional analogues and variants thereof.